



# PARLIAMENT

House of  
LORDS

House of  
COMMONS

Hereditary Nobility  
& Church Leaders

“Elected”  
(LIMITED Suffrage)





# PROPERTY REQUIREMENTS

TO VOTE & HOLD OFFICE

The background of the slide is a painting of a forest scene. A path leads from the bottom left towards the center, flanked by trees and foliage. In the distance, a large, dark building with multiple spires, resembling a cathedral or a large manor, is visible through the trees. The overall color palette is muted, with earthy tones and a sense of depth.

# House of Commons

*Dominated by*  
LANDOWNERS



# ROTTEN BOROUGH



Photo by Donald Lee Pardue



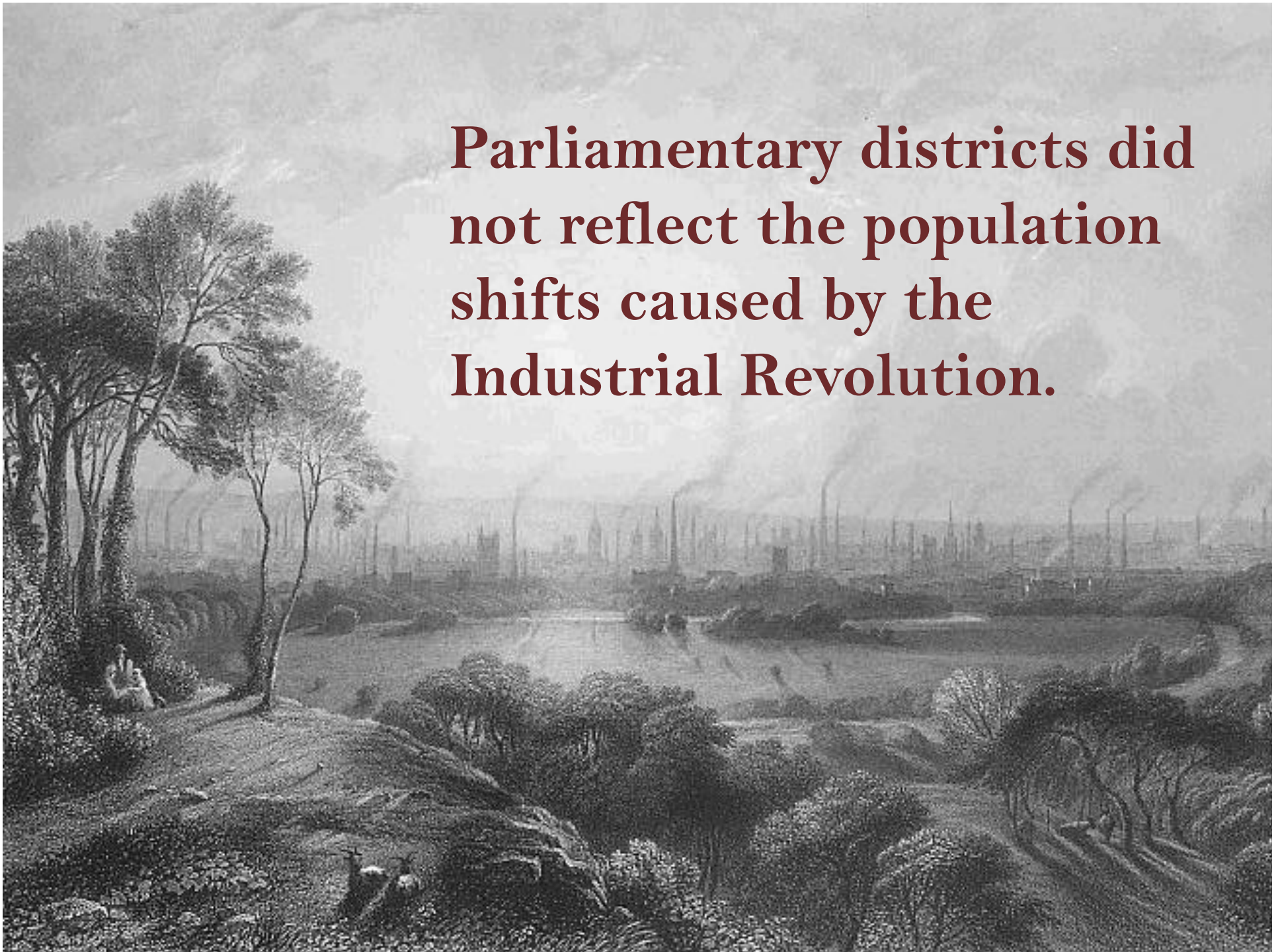
bor-ough      ˈbərō

A district, town, or  
administrative unit

Photo by Donald Lee Pardue



**Parliamentary districts did not reflect the population shifts caused by the Industrial Revolution.**



# POLITICAL PARTIES

**TORIES**  
(Conservatives)

**WHIGS**  
(Liberals)

**Landed Gentry**

**Businessmen**



# Rotten Boroughs

allowed the Tories to  
control Parliament.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Houses\\_of\\_Parliament\\_series\\_\(Monet\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Houses_of_Parliament_series_(Monet))





AND ENRICH  
THEMSELVES

Photo by epSos .de



# Corn Laws (1815)

**Protective Tariff**  
on foreign wheat



“Corn”



# PRICES



“Corn”





# The Corn Laws

enriched the landed gentry at the  
expense of everyone else.

Photo by Andrew Wilkinson



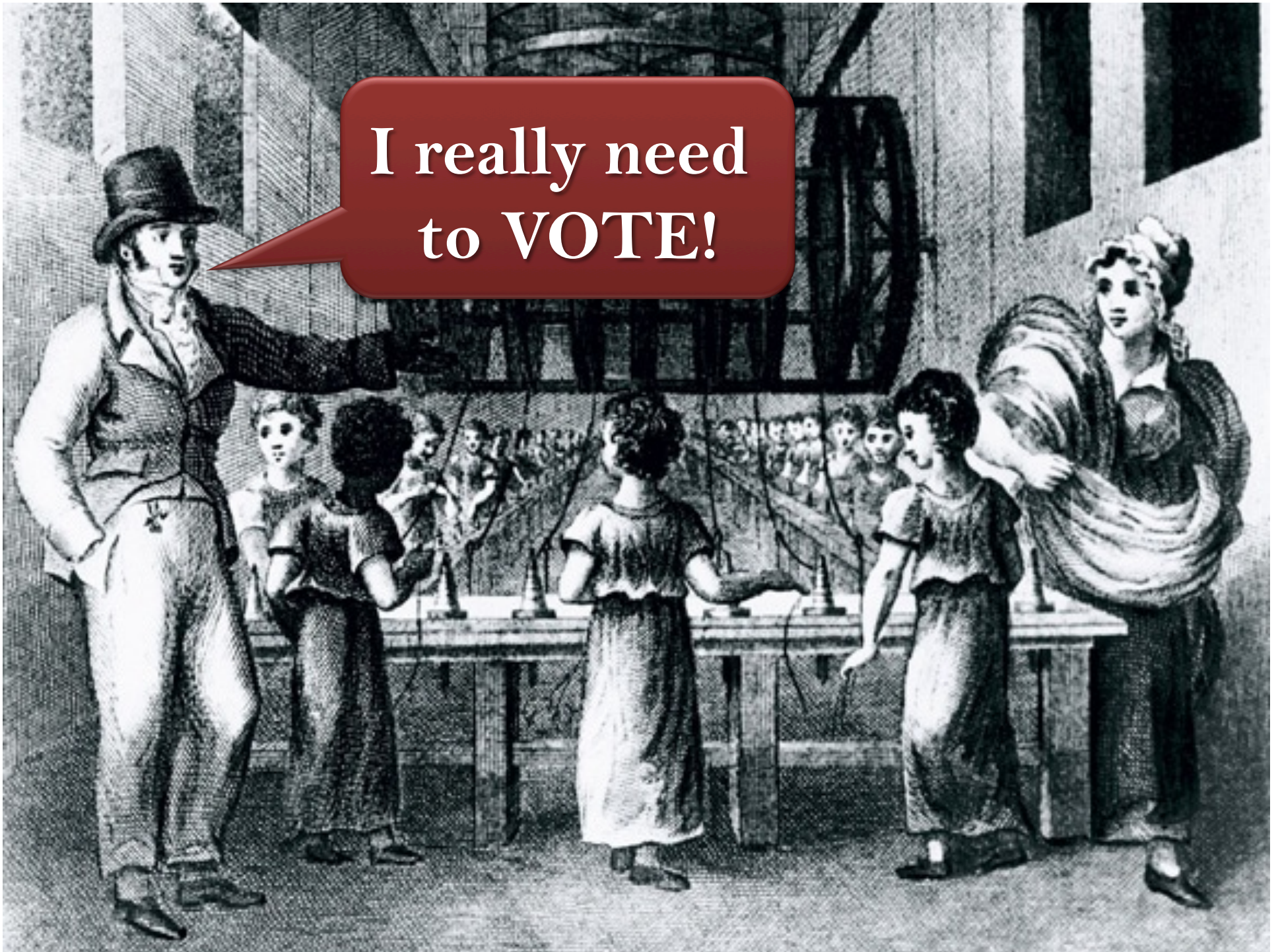
1 / 12

of adult males could vote before 1832.

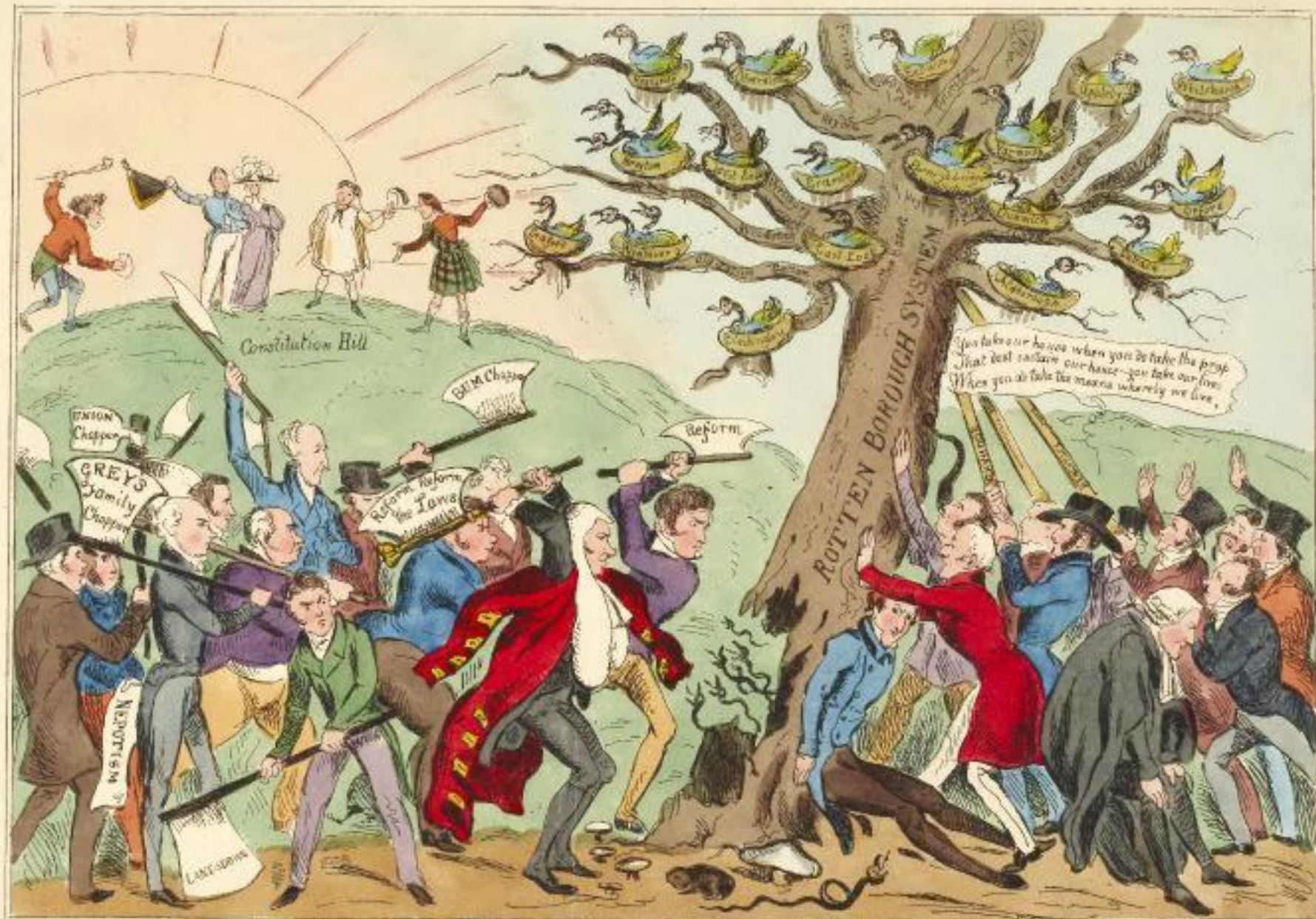
Photo by stu\_spivack



I really need  
to VOTE!

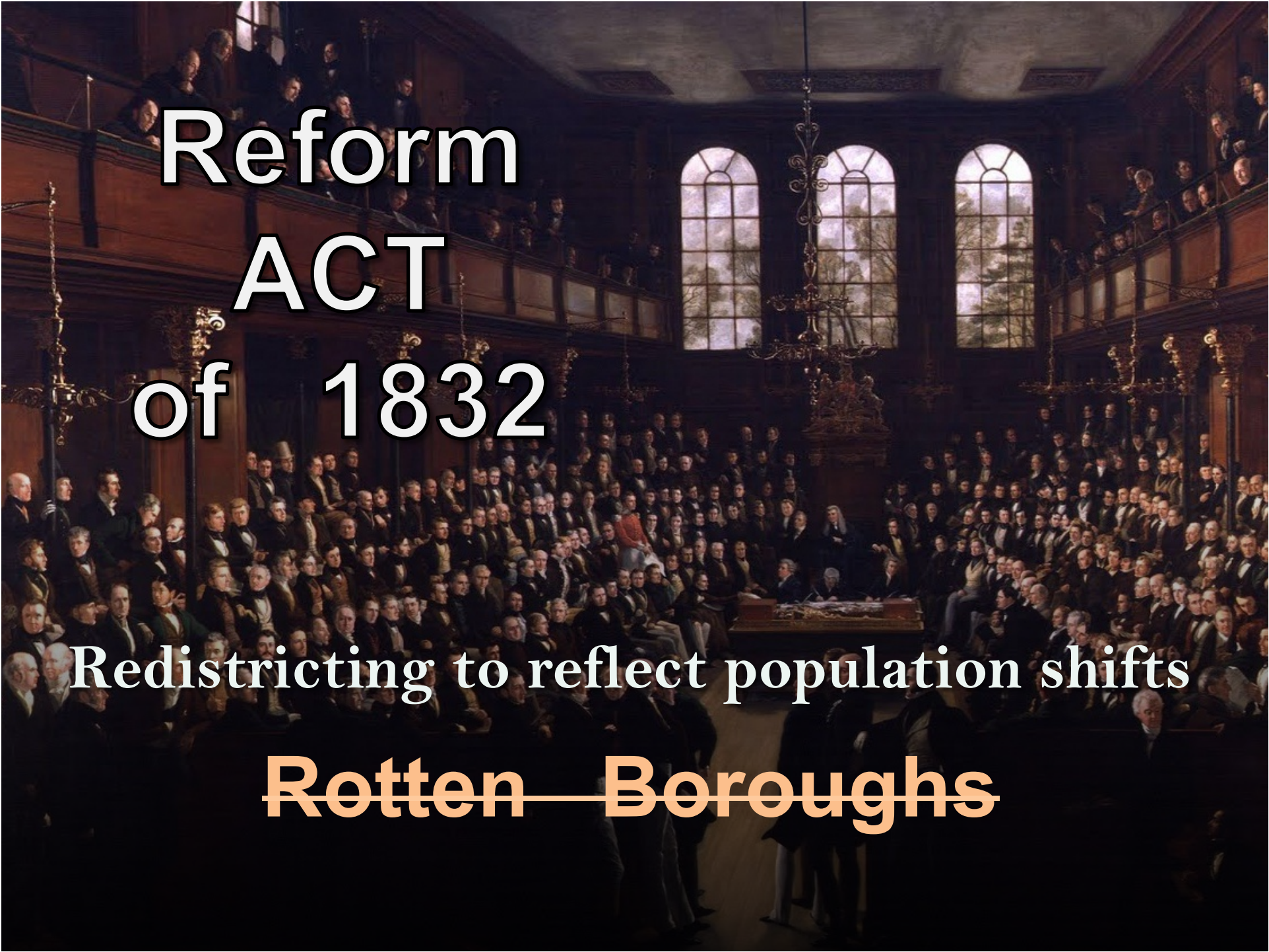






*The Reformers' Attack on the Old Rotten Tree; or, the Foul Nests of the Cormorants in Danger.* Parody of King Charles's line.






# Reform ACT of 1832

Redistricting to reflect population shifts

~~Rotten — Boroughs~~





# Reform ACT of 1832

Suffrage for the urban *middle* class  
(*lowered* property requirements)



1 / 6

of adult males could vote  
after the 1832 Act.

Photo by stu\_spivack

5 / 6

STILL COULD NOT

Photo by stu\_spivack



A detailed, dark-toned painting of a 19th-century factory interior. The scene is filled with numerous workers, mostly men, engaged in various tasks. Large, complex machinery with gears and belts dominates the background and middle ground. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and deep shadows, creating a sense of a busy, somewhat oppressive industrial environment. The overall mood is one of the harsh conditions of early industrialization.

NO SUFFRAGE

for the  
WORKING CLASS



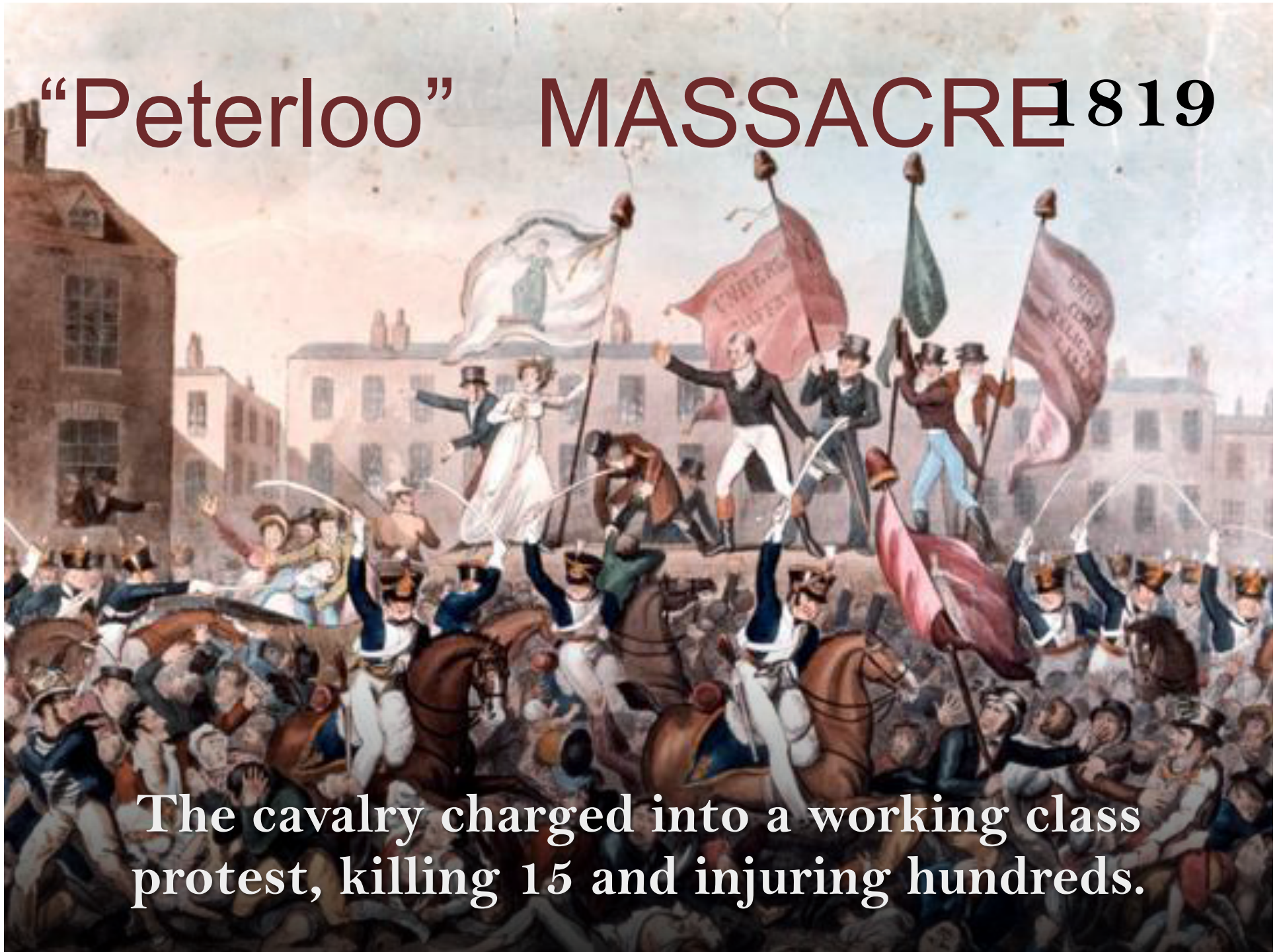
# CONSERVATIVE LEADERS

*Resisted Working Class Agitation.*





# “Peterloo” MASSACRE 1819



The cavalry charged into a working class protest, killing 15 and injuring hundreds.



1838  
"PERFECT" EDITION.]

VIN. 6  
[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

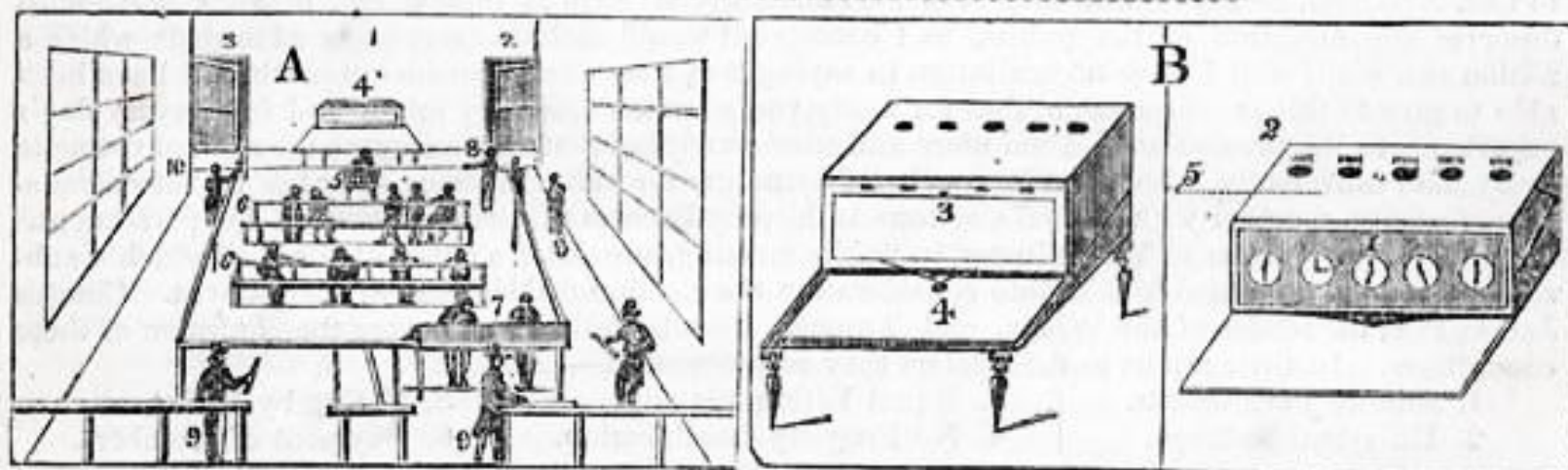
# THE PEOPLE'S CHARTER:

*Being the Outline of An Act to provide for the Just Representation of the People of Great Britain and Ireland in the Commons' House of Parliament:*

EMBRACING THE PRINCIPLES OF

**Universal Suffrage; No Property Qualification; Annual Parliaments;  
Equal Representation; Payment of Members; and Vote by Ballot.**

Prepared by a Committee of Twelve Persons: Six Members of Parliament, and Six Members of the "London Working Men's Association;" and addressed to the People of the United Kingdom.—  
Re-printed from the Third Edition, Revised and Corrected, from Communications made by many Associations in various parts of the Kingdom.



Schedule A, the Balloting Place,—1. The space separated off by a close partition, for the purposes of Secret Voting.  
2. The entrance to the Ballot Box: where the voter places his vote.



# CHARTISTS

1838-1850

Working class activists who supported  
the People's Charter

# SIX POINTS of CHARTISM

1. UNIVERSAL MALE SUFFRAGE
2. EQUAL-SIZED electoral districts
3. Voting by SECRET BALLOT
4. NO PROPERTY QUALIFICATION
5. PAY for members of Parliament
6. ANNUAL ELECTIONS of Parliament



# DEMOCRATIC REFORM

# SIX POINTS of CHARTISM

1. UNIVERSAL MALE SUFFRAGE
2. EQUAL-SIZED electoral districts
3. Voting by SECRET BALLOT
4. NO PROPERTY QUALIFICATION
5. PAY for members of Parliament
6. ANNUAL ELECTIONS of Parliament





# 1.3 million Signatures

on the 1839 People's Charter

Photo by Ian Stannard



A detailed historical painting of the interior of the House of Commons. The room is large and ornate, with high ceilings, large arched windows, and a grand chandelier hanging from the center. Members of the House are seated in galleries on both sides of a central aisle. In the center, a long table covered with a green cloth is set up, with several men seated around it. A man in a dark coat stands at the head of the table, addressing the assembly. The scene is filled with people in 18th-century attire, creating a sense of a formal and busy legislative session.

**The House of  
Commons**  
did not accept the petition.



# DEMONSTRATIONS 1838-1848



CHARTISTS' RIOTS.



# Chartist Mural in Newport 1978-2013



Photo by Robin Drayton





Photo Source: [South Wales Chartist Network](#)



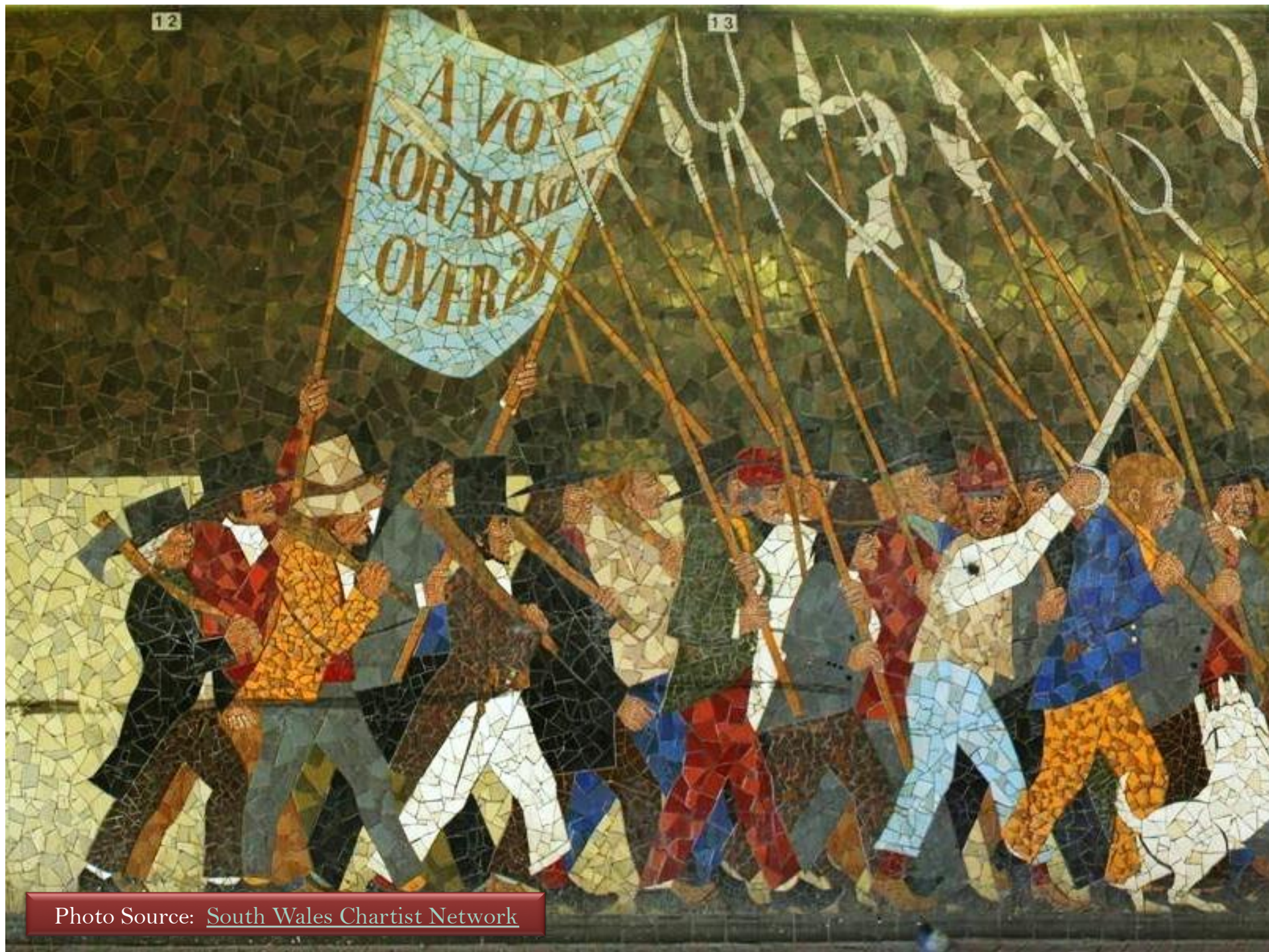


Photo Source: [South Wales Chartist Network](#)



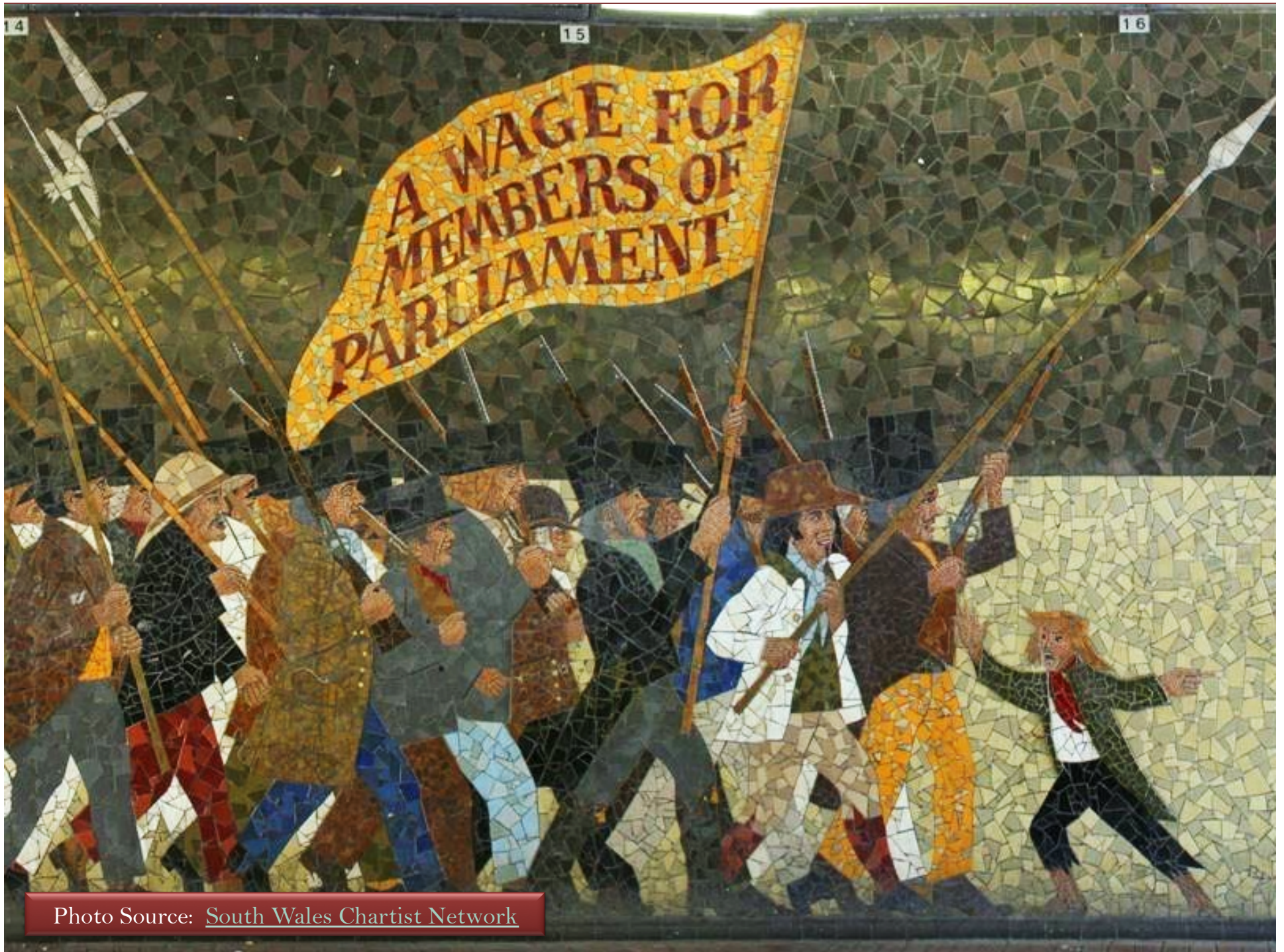


Photo Source: [South Wales Chartist Network](#)





Photo Source: [South Wales Chartist Network](#)





Photo Source: [South Wales Chartist Network](#)





Photo Source: [South Wales Chartist Network](#)



# GREAT CHARTIST MEETING

(1848)





# **CHARTIST DEMONSTRATION!!**

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***"PEACE and ORDER" is our MOTTO!***

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**TO THE WORKING MEN OF LONDON.**

Fellow Men,—The Press having misrepresented and vilified us and our intentions, the Demonstration Committee therefore consider it to be their duty to state that the grievances of us (the Working Classes) are deep and our demands just. We and our families are pining in misery, want, and starvation! We demand a fair day's wages for a fair day's work! We are the slaves of capital—we demand protection to our labour. We are political serfs—we demand to be free. We therefore invite all well disposed to join in our peaceful procession on

**MONDAY NEXT, April 10,**

As it is for the good of all that we seek to remove the evils under which we groan.



# Attendance estimates:

A historical photograph showing a massive crowd of people gathered in an open area, likely a factory square or a large field. In the background, there are several large industrial buildings and a prominent tall chimney. The crowd is dense, and many people are wearing hats and coats, suggesting a formal or organized gathering. A small flag with the number '2' is visible on the left side of the crowd.

Chartists:	300,000
Government:	15,000
<i>Sun. Observer</i>	50,000



# SIX POINTS of CHARTISM

1. UNIVERSAL MALE SUFFRAGE
2. EQUAL-SIZED electoral districts
3. Voting by SECRET BALLOT
4. NO PROPERTY QUALIFICATION
5. PAY for members of Parliament
6. ANNUAL ELECTIONS of Parliament



# Short term

## NOT ACTED UPON

# LONG term

*All but annual elections eventually took effect.*



**FREE**

**TRADE**



# ANTI-CORN LAW LEAGUE

Both liberals and radicals  
opposed the Corn Laws.



# ANTI-CORN LAW LEAGUE

**Radical  
Opposition**

**LIBERAL  
Opposition**

**Lower Grain Prices**

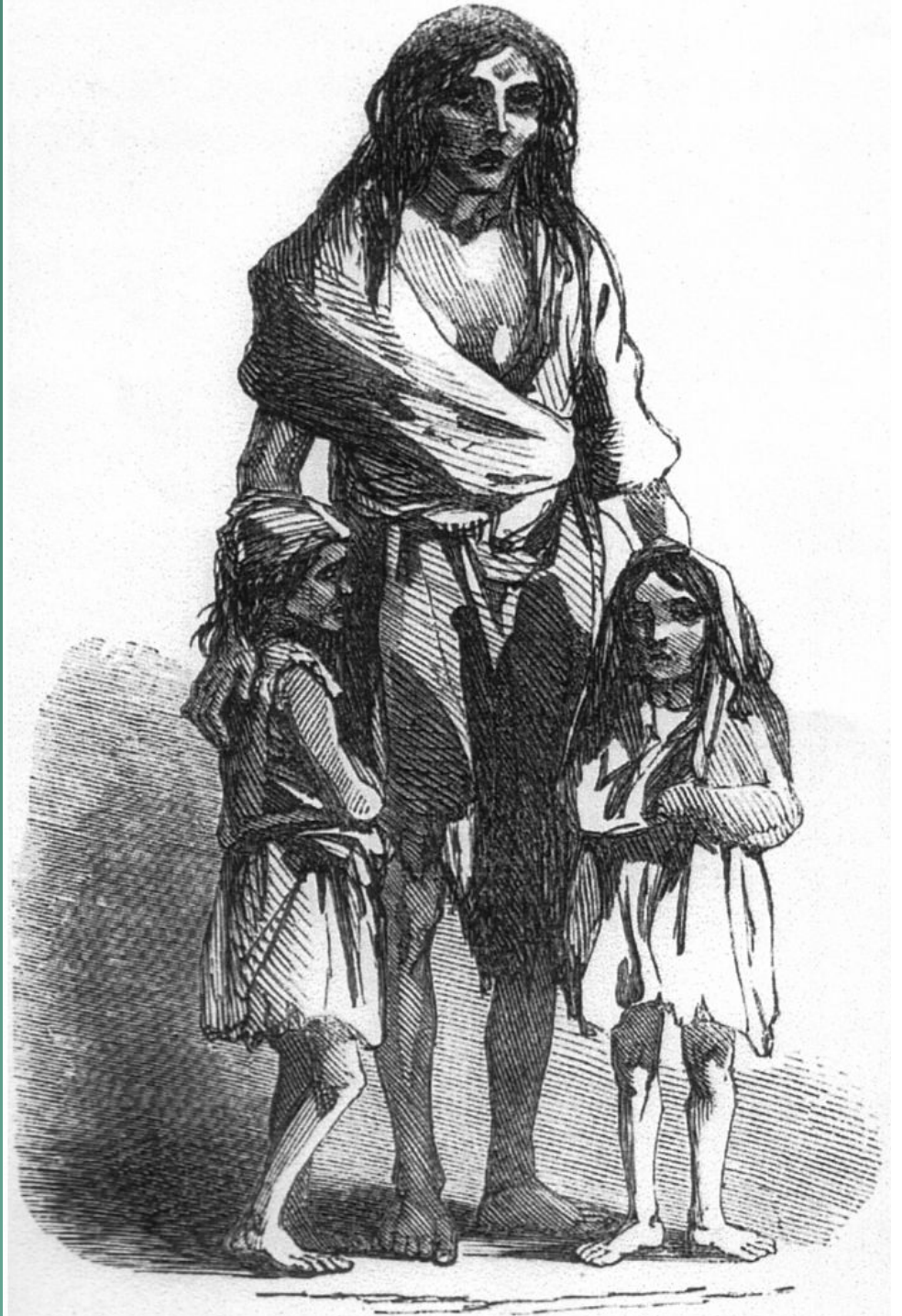
*Cheaper Food*

*Pay Workers Less*



# IRISH POTATO FAMINE

1845-1852

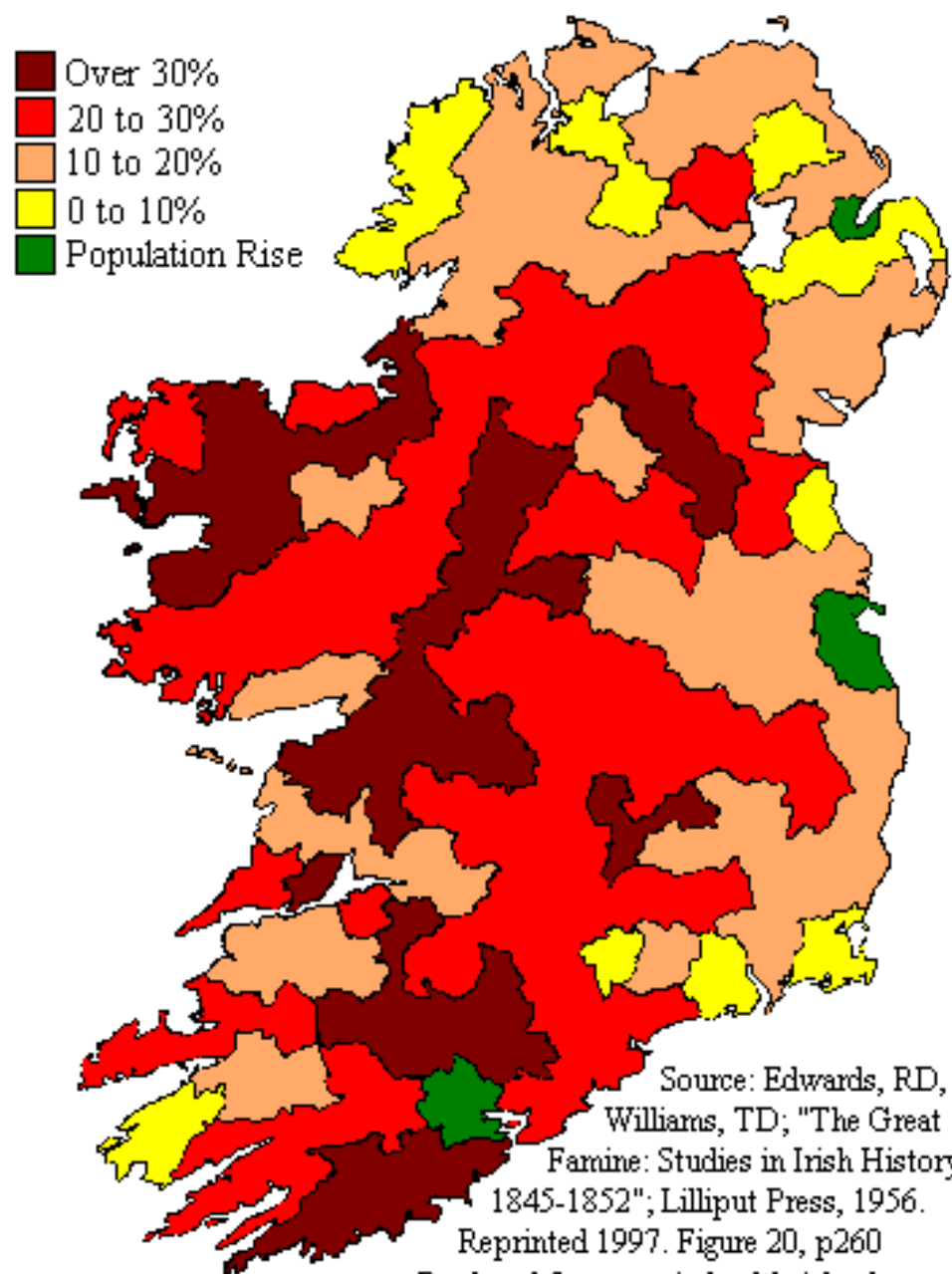




# IRISH POTATO FAMINE

1845-1852

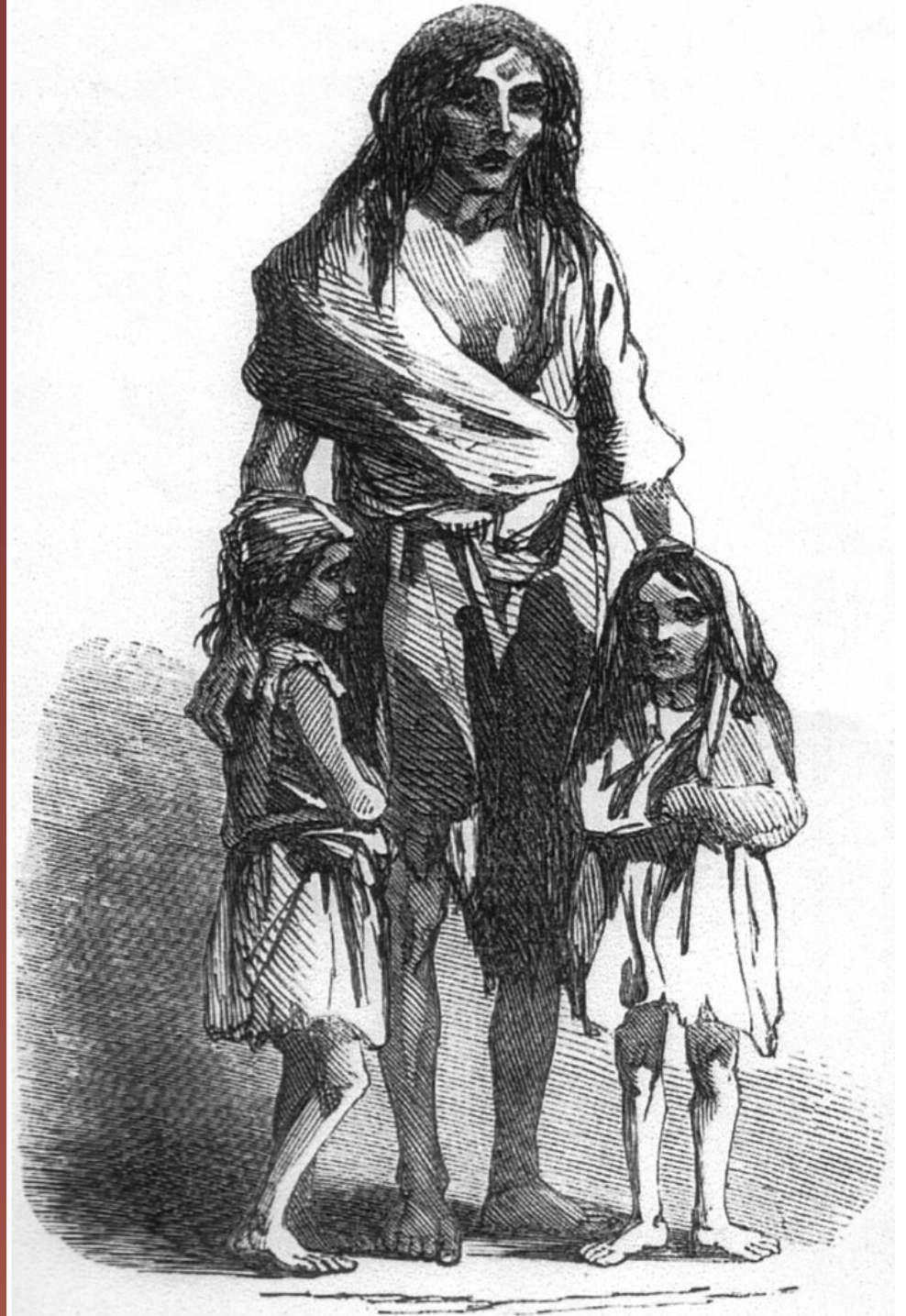
## Population Fall in Ireland 1841-1851



*Unlike the rest of this site, this map is declared to be in the public domain.*



HOW  
can Parliament keep  
the price of “corn”  
artificially high  
when people are  
**STARVING?**







# Sir Robert PEEL

Peel's administration

“re-peeled”

the Corn Laws  
(get it?).



REFORM FROM

above

**RADICAL  
AGITATION**



# Reform measures

*Passed by Parliament in lieu of Chartist proposals*

MINES ACT 1842

CORN LAWS REPEALED  
1846

TEN HOUR ACT 1847

# ENGELS TO BRITISH WORKERS



“In order to divert you from the People’s Charter, the only goal important to you, they spawn all sorts of projects for superficial reforms.”

-- Friedrich Engels,  
Marxist





# Reform > Revolution

Parliament's willingness to pass modest reforms saved Britain from the revolutionary upheavals that happened on the continent.



ULTIMATELY  
Workers just want  
more money

Photo by William Warby



# AND FOOD

Photo by Rebecca Partington





# NOT A REVOLUTION

Photo by William Warby





**LEARNING. DELIVERED.**

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